

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 FDRE-00 DRC-01 /058 W

----- 013064

R 152155Z OCT 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8346

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4419

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SWEL, HO

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF TPG POLITICAL PARTIES' UNITY COMMISSION
FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (CUPREN)

1. ACCORDING TO DECLARATIONS PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL PRESS
THE TWO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES (LIBERAL AND NATIONALIST)
HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM THE POLITICAL PARTIES' UNITY
COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (CUPREN).

2. CUPREN'S GOALS, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION, ARE TO
PROVIDE FOR THE PARTIES' PARTICIPATION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION
PROGRAMS AND TO WORK FOR THE RETURN OF "POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY"
AND REPRESENTATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT WHICH REAL RECONSTRUC-
TION WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE. THE PARTIES DECLARE THAT THEY WILL
WORK "SHOULDER TO SHOULDER" IN THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT.

3. PRIOR TO THE EMERGENCY CREATED BY HURRICANE FIFI THE
POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO FORM A UNITED FRONT
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OF OPPOSITION TO THE MILITARY REGIME. THIS PROVED TO BE

DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS ON STRATEGY WITHIN THE TWO PARTIES CONCERNING HOW BEST TO PRESENT SUCH A UNITED OPPOSITION. HURRICANE FIFI HASTENED THIS PROCESS WITH THE RESULTING JOINT DECLARATION. WHATEVER ITS EVENTUAL PRACTICAL RESULTS, THE DECLARATION SHOWS THAT THE PARTIES CAN AT LEAST PRESENT A UNITED FRONT PUBLICLY.

4. COHEP'S REFUSAL TO TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NEWLY NAMED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (SEE TEGUCIGALPA 4215 AND 4363) IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES. THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES AND A MAJORITY SEGMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO HURRICANE FIFI APPEARS TO BE EVEN FIRMER AT THE PRESENT. THERE IS EVERY PROBABILITY THAT THE PARTIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL MOUNT INCREASINGLY SUVERE ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES IN THE COMING DAYS.

5. A CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT'S EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES HAS ALREADY BEEN MOUNTED. THE RUMOR MILLS HAVE BEEN TURNING OUT MANY STORIES OF MISHANDLING AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF SUPPLIES BY GOH AUTHORITIES. THE POINT OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO PAINT THE REGIME AS BOTH INCOMPETENT AND CORRUPT, THUS WEAKENING ITS POWER BASE AMONG THE SECTORS OF SOCIETY THAT PRESENTLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.
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